

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is requiring election of a single Group of claims for further prosecution.

The Claims have been divided into Groups as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1, 8 and 10, drawn to a lithium-ion-conducting sulfide-based crystallized glass comprising lithium, phosphorus and sulfur.
- Group II: Claims 2-7, 9, 11 and 12, drawn to a method of making a lithium-ion-conducting sulfide-based crystallized glass comprising heat-treating a sulfide-based glass comprising 68 to 74 mol% of Li_2S and 26 to 32 mol% of P_2S_5 .

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1, 8 and 10 (drawn to a lithium-ion-conducting sulfide-based crystallized glass comprising lithium, phosphorus and sulfur), for examination.

Restriction is only proper if the claims of the restricted groups are independent or patentably distinct and there would be a serious burden placed on the Examiner if restriction is not required (MPEP §803). The burden is on the Examiner to provide reasons and/or examples to support any conclusion in regard to patentable distinction (MPEP §803). Moreover, when citing lack of unity of invention in a national stage application, the Examiner has the burden of explaining why each group lacks unity with each other group specifically describing special technical features in each group (MPEP § 1893.03(d)).

The Office has asserted that Groups I - II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

“Group I does not require the relative amounts of the two compounds.
Group II does not require the claimed peaks.”

Annex B of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT at (b) Technical Relationship states:

“The expression “special technical features” is defined in Rule 13.2 as meaning those technical features that defines a contribution which each of the inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. The determination is made on the contents of the claims as interpreted in light of the description and drawings (if any).”

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not provided any indication that the contents of the claims *interpreted in light of the description* was considered in making the assertion of a lack of unity and therefore has not met the burden necessary to support the assertion.

Furthermore, 37 C.F.R. § 1.475(b) states in pertinent part:

“An international or a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations of categories:

(1) A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product;...”

In addition, The MPEP §806.03 states:

“Where the claims of an application define the same essential characteristics of a *single* disclosed embodiment of an invention, restriction there between should never be required. This is because the claims are not directed to distinct inventions; rather they are different definitions of the same disclosed subject matter, varying in breadth or scope of definition.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not considered the relationship of the inventions of Groups I-II with respect to 37 C.F.R. § 1.475(b)(2) and MPEP §806.03. Therefore the burden necessary according to MPEP § 1893.03(d) to sustain the conclusion that the groups lack of unity of invention has not been met.

Application No. 10/586,924
Reply to Restriction Requirement of July 1, 2010

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the requirement for restriction.

Applicants therefore request that the requirement for restriction be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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